

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A method for providing an authentication of a user of a computer in a network, the method comprising the steps of:

- a!
- (a) capturing biometric information of athe user by the computer;
  - (b) encrypting the biometric information using a secure server's public key and signing the biometric information with a client-private key of the computer system;
  - (c) sending the encrypted and signed data-information from the computer to athe secure server in the network;
  - (d) accepting and verifying credentials associated with the signed and encrypted data-information from the secure server utilizing the public key from the central-secure server; and
  - (e) installing the credentials into the computer if the credentials are verified.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the biometric information comprises fingerprint information.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the biometric information comprises retinal information.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the biometric information comprises voice information.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the biometric information comprises handwriting information.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the secure server comprises an authentication credential server.

7. (Currently amended) A system for providing an authentication of a user of a computer system in a network; the system comprising:

~~a biometric capture device within the computer system for receiving the biometric information of the user and sending the biometric information to the central server, wherein credential; and~~

a secure server coupled to the computer system for authenticating the biometric information of the user, wherein the secure server includes a database that stores and credential information associated with biometric information; and ~~of a user from the computer.~~

a biometric capture device within the computer system for receiving the biometric information of the user and sending the biometric information to the secure server,

wherein if the secure server authenticates the user via the biometric information, the secure server sends the associated credential information to the computer system such that the user can securely operate the computer system.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein the biometric information is encrypted utilizing a public key/private key pair.

9. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein the biometric information comprises fingerprint information.

10. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein the biometric information comprises retinal information.

11. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein the biometric information comprises voice information.

12. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein the biometric information comprises handwriting information.

13. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein the secure server comprises an authentication credential server.

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